"Navigator"
HO'OKELE
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

April 1, 2011 www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil Volume 2 Issue 11

Air Force, Navy families join to prevent child abuse

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific signed a letter March 28, proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child The event was held at the Warfighter and Family Services (WFS) office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 28.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith signed the proclamation as a part of a national movement to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs.

"This is the third year that I've been able to be a part of this proclamation signing to end abuse of children," Smith said. "I want to thank all of you who are here to support this very important program and staying committed to protecting our children."

Students from Pearl Harbor Elementary School perform a song during the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention proclamation signing ceremony March 28 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warfighter and Family Services office. The proclamation signing officially marked April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Month of the Military Child for Navy Region Hawaii.

According to Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, there are approximately 6,000 cases of child abuse reported each year in Hawaii.

"Out of the 290,000 children in Hawaii, 6,000 are abused every year, and as far as I'm concerned, one is too many," Smith said. "We, as a military and a community, have to be the ones leading this campaign to end child abuse."

WFS, along with Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, offers various programs designed to provide parents with support and skills necessary to perform as effectively as possible when taking care of children.

"Our goal here at WFS is to give parents and guardians the tools they need to provide a healthy and safe environment for their children," said Chet Adessa, an educator for work and family life division at WFS. "We are here to help protect the children of the service members that protect us."

Chief Information Systems Technician Chester McDonald, assigned to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, spoke about the importance of the Navy's child abuse prevention program.

"I think this is a great program that the Navy has because it emphasizes the point that we will not tolerate abuse of children," McDonald said. "We as Sailors must be at the forefront of this campaign to end child abuse."

At the end of the ceremony, children from Pearl Harbor Elementary School performed a choreographed dance. Other students performed a song with ukuleles.

Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed nationwide each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983. Since that time, millions of Americans have participated each year in the public awareness campaign.

MDSU-1 divers help with search and salvage relief efforts in Japan

MC1 Jerry Foltz

Naval Air Facility Public Affairs Misawa, Japan

HACHINOHE, Japan (NNS) – (Editor's note: Seventeen Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are deployed on USNS Safeguard in support of the search and salvage operation in Japan.)

A bilateral effort comprised of Navy divers, Seabees, explosives ordnance specialists, Merchant Marines from the Safeguard-class salvage ship USNS Safeguard (ARS 50), and Japanese officials came together over a three-day period from March 25 to March 28.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Devon Dow

The Military Sealift Command recovery and salvage ship USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50) is in the waters of Hachinohe, Japan, to assist salvage recovery efforts in support of Operation Tomodachi.

Together, they helped clear channels in Hachinohe, one of the areas severely affected in the recent earthquake-related tsunami that hit the region.

Working closely with Japanese officials, careful mapping, planning and coordination was established in order for boats to safely operate in the water. Master divers pointed out several key areas of focus during each day's dive operations to members of the Japanese Coast Guard and other officials.

"Our requests initially came from the government of Japan, through Commander, Task Force 76 (CTF-76), and down to us," said Senior Chief Navy Diver Jon Klukas, formerly with MDSU-1.

Under the direction of CTF-76, members of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Underwater Construction Team Two from Port Hueneme, Calif., and Explosive Ordinance and Disposal Mobile Unit Five, homeported at U.S. Naval Base Guam, performed land and underwater location, sonar identification and recovered foreign objects that were potentially blocking safe passage through the channel.

The first task was to pass the channel using high-capacity sonar, which gave an 80-meter visual range of the channel floor. Then specialized dive teams were sent to conduct harbor and waterway clearance, indentifying objects through the use of floating markers to alert topside observers.

"Over four million square meters of harbor have been sonared," Klukas said. "We have also pulled about five tons of wreckage, consisting of various items like cars, large conex boxes and diesel generators."

Once the objects were indentified, it was up to the crew of the Safeguard to operate cranes and float the items to the surface for proper recovery.

"The divers we have here on station, as well as the Safeguard crew, have been absolutely phenomenal," Klukas said. "They have had to work long hours in very tough conditions, and the mission came out a success in the end."

Fed Fire leads response to CH-53 helo tragedy

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe and Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

One Marine died and three other Marines were injured after a Marine Corps CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter executed an emergency landing in Kaneohe Bay on March 29. Navy Federal Fire Department (Fed Fire) was the first of several agencies that responded, establishing an incident command and providing medical response and transport as part of a coordinated team.

Cpl. Jonathan D. Faircloth, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Air Group 24, was pronounced dead by the state medical examiner and taken to Tripler Army Medical Center on Tuesday night.

Faircloth, 22, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., joined the squadron in April 2007, and deployed with them to Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2010. He became a Marine in August 2006.

Faircloth is survived by his wife, Alicia, two siblings, James and Danielle, and his parents, Dean and Beverly Faircloth, who described their son as a true gentleman and a happy person who loved the Marine Corps and his job.

Faircloth's personal awards include four Air Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

The three HMH-363 crewmen injured during the same emergency landing were pilot Maj. Clinton J. Collins, copilot Capt. Kevin F. Hayles, and crew chief Cpl. Ronnie E. Brandafino. All three Marines were transported to Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu for treatment of their injuries and were last reported in stable condition.

While Hayles has joined the squadron recently, Collins has deployed with HMH-363 once to Afghanistan and Brandafino, who joined the squadron in 2008 deployed with them to Iraq that year and to Afghanistan in 2010. Collins also deployed with HMH-362, also based at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, to Iraq in 2007.

The helicopter, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, executed an emergency landing at approximately 7:20 p.m. The helicopter and the four-Marine crew landed in shallow water in Kaneohe Bay approximately two miles from the air station.

Fed Fire provided three engine companies, two ambulances with advanced life support, and 18 responders, including two chief officers, and served as part of a unified response that

See CH-53, A-7

Sen. Inouye visits USS Hawaii

Senior Chief Fire Control Technician (SS) Edward Brennan of the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) explains the basic submarine controls and operations to Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, a World War II combat veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, visited the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) for a tour March 24 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"It is a great honor for us to have the senator visiting our submarine," said Cmdr. Steve Mack, Hawaii commanding officer. "The crew was excited to meet and talk to such a distinguished member of the U.S. Senate and a military icon."

During the tour, the crew of Hawaii explained basic submarine operations,

See INOUYE, A-7

Fallen service members awarded Hawaii Medal of Honor **See page A-2**

JBPHH conducts 'spring cleaning' **See page A-2**

535 AS continues to support Operation Tomodachi **See page A-4**

Navy Region Hawaii celebrates Women's History Month **See page A-7**

Operation "Hele" On provides military families with an interactive pre-deployment experience **See page B-1**

Tripler outlines steps to protect yourself from dengue fever **See page B-4**

Fallen service members awarded Hawaii Medal of Honor

Story and photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

HONOLULU– The Hawaii State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives honored 17 fallen service members with the Hawaii Medal of Honor (HMOH) at the Hawaii State Capitol on March 29.

The HMOH was awarded on behalf of the state of Hawaii to the family members of those individuals who were killed in action while serving as part of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"The Hawaii Medal of Honor is awarded on behalf of the people of Hawaii to Soldiers [service members] who are connected to these islands and are part of our ohana, or family, forever," said Shan S. Tsutsui, senate president of the state of Hawaii. "Today I am truly privileged and proudly humbled to take part in this ceremony to honor those who have sacrificed their lives in the event of our nation and its freedom."

Airmen from the Hickam Honor Guard rendered a 21-gun salute during the Hawaii Medal of Honor ceremony held at the Hawaii State Capitol on March 29. Hawaii recognized and awarded 17 fallen service members who were residents, went to school or were stationed in Hawaii.

Recipients of the HMOH included active duty service members, reservists and the Hawaii National Guard who were residents of Hawaii, attended school in Hawaii or were stationed in Hawaii.

"This was the state of Hawaii honoring the sons and daughters of Hawaii," said Lis Olson, mother of Spc. Toby R. Olson.

Olsen was awarded the HMOH in 2007. However, his family received the award at this year's ceremony.

Although only nine of the 17 fallen service members were represented by family members and friends, all service members were rendered with honors of two bells after their names were announced.

At the end of the ceremony, a 21-gun salute was given by the Hickam Honor Guard followed by "Taps" performed by the Marine Forces Pacific Band.

Tim Poole, father of Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole Jr., explained how important the Marine Corps was to his son.

"Since my son was four years old, all he wanted to be was a United States Marine. He lived his dream. I'm thankful for the Marine Corps, because they allowed this little four-year-old boy to grow up to see his dream come true," said Poole.

As of Dec. 31, 2010, 284 service members with Hawaii ties have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty.

"No one who puts on the uniform wants to die for their country, but they are nonetheless willing to if it means their country will live in peace and security," said Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong, Hawaii's National Guard adjutant general. "At the very least, such selflessness deserves public recognition on the highest order and that is why we are here today."

O'Harrah relieves Pinkerton as Commanding officer of USS Tucson

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. James O'Harrah relieved Cmdr. Gary Pinkerton as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) during a time-honored change of command ceremony at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 25.

Robert E. Walkup, mayor of the city of Tucson, Ariz. and guest speaker, praised Pinkerton on his recent accomplishments on board Tucson and on his naval career.

"I recognize the value of leadership and I am here on behalf of the citizens of the city of Tucson, today, to say thank you to Cmdr. Pinkerton," Walkup said. "Thank you for all of the things you have done to ensure discipline and a commitment from your crew as you serve this country."

Cmdr. Gary Pinkerton is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) by Cmdr. James O'Harrah during a change of command ceremony held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 25.

Pinkerton acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and their hard work efforts.

"This crew is definitely a shining example of men rising to great challenges presented to them," Pinkerton said. "You have overcome numerous seemingly enormous obstacles, many of them bringing tremendous sea time with unexpected and unfamiliar tasking. You handled each one professionally and superbly."

Following his remarks, Pinkerton was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from February 2009 to March 2011.

In his closing remarks, Pinkerton reflected on his time on Tucson and at sea.

"I knew from day one that I was blessed with a disproportionate level of talent in my crew and their chiefs," Pinkerton said. "The professionalism, desire and pure enthusiasm I see every day demonstrates to me that there are many new and even greater things in your future."

Since Tucson's arrival in Pearl Harbor, she has completed numerous western Pacific deployments and other vital operations.

As O'Harrah assumed command of Tucson, he addressed the crew about the future.

"As you keep Tucson ready to complete her national tasking, I am humbled and honored to lead you and continue the tradition and standards you have set," O'Harrah said.

Pinkerton graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1991 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He then took part in the Naval Academy Immediate Graduate Education Program, earning a masters degree in nuclear engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1993.

His sea tours include USS Archerfish (SSN 678), USS Michigan Blue (SSBN 727(B)) and USS Hartford (SSN 768). His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and various other unit awards.

96th ARS refuels U.S., Thai jets

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Defense Media Activity – Hawaii

KORAT, Thailand - A KC-135 Stratotanker crew refueled U.S. and Thai jets over Thai air space March 21 during Cope Tiger 2011.

The 96th Air Refueling Squadron (96th ARS), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, refueled four 44th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-15s and three F-16s assigned to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base.

This is the 96th ARS's first big exercise since the squadron stood up last November.

"This has been an awesome exercise for me so far," said Senior Airman Shane Williams, a boom operator with the 96th ARS. "It's an honor to stand up a squadron, but to be here and working with the 203rd ARS is great because of the experience that they have to offer at exercises like this one."

An F-15 assigned to the 44th Expeditionary Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan stays by his wingman while being refueled by a KC-135 from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on March 21 over Thailand during Cope Tiger 2011.

The 96th ARS is an active associate unit that works hand and hand with the 203rd ARS (Air Refueling Squadron), Hawaii Air National Guard, which serves as the lead squadron in their total force integration development.

An exercise like this one does present its fare share of challenges - one of which is the language barrier that everyone has dealt with since there are three countries participating in Cope Tiger.

"The biggest obstacle is language, but we have a lot of standard processes in this exercise to make it flow smoothly," Williams added. "Once we get pass the usual communication glitches, the training here is well worth it."

Cope Tiger is a multilateral joint exercise involving the United States, Thailand and Singapore. The exercise provides a quality venue to develop multi-lateral interoperability and coalition procedures in air power missions, to include air superiority, close air support, interdiction, electronic warfare, tactical airlift, aerial refueling and airborne command and control.

Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Lonnie McDade and Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Marina Weems collect dead leaves around the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. JBPHH and its tenant commands took part in a base-wide installation cleanup and maintenance of their respective areas on March 24.

JBPHH conducts 'spring cleaning'

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) participated in an installation-wide base cleanup March 24.

In support of this effort, commands and ships based at JBPHH assisted in removing debris, conducting general cleanup, and painting of highly visible areas such as base entrances, parking areas, roadway borders and sidewalks.

"Our job is to support the fleet," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Raymund Lee, the leading petty officer at JBPHH 1st Lt. Division. "We try our best to make it look like the best homeport, making it look more presentable, so we can enjoy the base a little bit more. The cleaner the environment is, the better mindset you get."

The primary function of the 1st Lt. Division is to provide the upkeep, maintenance and repair of installation facilities. For the cleanup, the 1st Lt. supplied cleaning equipment and materials to participating commands.

"We do our best to make it look good," Lee said. "This base has historical value. We put a little bit more pride in maintaining it."

The 1st Lt. Division provided leaf blowers, weed eaters and curbside trash removal. They also provided painting supplies, brooms and rakes for the commands that needed it.

Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Marina Weems, assigned to the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, was outside with her supervisor, Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Lonnie McDade, where she filled up more than three trash bags full of dead leaves.

"I care about my base," Weems said. She explained that she treats her work like it's her home and wants others to know that people here care about the base and its surroundings.

MCPON wishes happy birthday to Navy chief petty officers

Office of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following chief petty officer birthday message to the fleet on March 28.

"My fellow chief petty officers, On April 1, our entire mess will pause to celebrate 118 years of the United States Navy chief petty officer, and we're not just celebrating another year of chiefs serving the Navy, we're celebrating everything it means to wear the fouled anchors we all cherish.

Those anchors are the symbol of a culture and a way of life, representing character, loyalty, a strong commitment to leadership, our core values and Navy ethos. Our anchors carry with them a responsibility to live up to the tradition of selfless service, while remembering our proud heritage that we've spent 118 years building as we look toward our future.

Thank you, chiefs! Through your leadership of our Sailors, you continue to keep our heritage alive and our Navy strong — and as you know, our Navy is the best it has ever been. Continue to make a positive impact on your command, your Sailors, yourself and our mess.

Remember those who have gone before us and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday, shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard work you do every day.

Anchor up and hooyah, Navy chiefs!"

Hickam Airman loves her job as crew chief

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Stephanie Tapia, a crew chief with the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is this week's Joint Base Warrior of the Week.

Prior to joining the Air Force, Tapia worked at a chicken farm in North Carolina as quality assurance.

"I was a chicken inspector. I hated it," she said. "I went to the Air Force recruiter and told him I'd take anything. I just wanted to be in the Air Force."

Shortly after, in January 2008, she shipped out for basic training with open mechanical as her career field.

"I really love my job. It's always something new," she said. "I like the feeling that what I'm doing is really important, and the people that I work with are awesome. I love that I'm not just working in an office all day."

Tapia worked on the C-130J aircraft at her previous base, Ramstein Air Base in Germany. She switched to the C-17 when she received her assignment at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Though Airman Tapia only has six months on the C-17, she has consistently exceeded all expectations," said Tech Sgt. Eric Hunt, Tapia's supervisor. "In fact, her recent aircraft forms refresher course directly contributed to the 15 AMXS' 95.3 percent quality assurance pass rate."

Tapia enjoys being a part of the Air Force. However, there is one thing she would like to change.

"I wish we had lighter-weight uniforms and more durable boots," she said. "Our boots get destroyed on the flightline and they [uniforms] are too heavy for working in the office all day."

She stays busy at work with her numerous responsibilities. Some of the tasks she is responsible for are overall maintenance of the C-17s, servicing the aircraft, and launching and towing.

"Airman Tapia routinely sets the standards for peers to follow and is more than willing to share her expertise," Hunt said.

Tapia also stays busy off duty by enjoying the Hawaii sunshine and beaches.

"I like to hang out with my friends and be outdoors," said Tapia. "The weather here is perfect for that. It's a very relaxing place to be. Some of my favorite things to do on the island are snorkeling and hiking."

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

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HO'OKELE
Pearl Harbor · Hickam News

Diverse Views

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

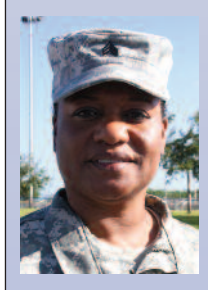
What can each of us contribute to make Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam more beautiful?

Tech Sgt. Jason Adkins,
HQ PACAF

Do a better job enforcing the smoking area policy and eliminate cigarette butts on base.

Master Sgt. James Perez
HQ PACAF

Participate in more joint base cleanups.



Army Sgt. Daphne Johnsona
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)

"It's really beautiful here! I don't know if there is anything that would make it more beautiful. My boss and I talk about how wonderfully beautifully manicured the grounds are.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Carolyn Lopez-Rivera
352nd Network Warfare Squadron

"I heard that there used to be a self-help program. It's a good idea and it would be great if they would bring it back. Then we could get materials and supplies like paint to fix up the squadron. We would really be able to make things nicer. And it would save money."

Senior Airman Tyler Carter
352nd Network Warfare Squadron

"Since I live in base housing, I try to keep my front yard looking aesthetically pleasing."

Air Force Tech Sgt. Robert Welch
324th Intelligence Squadron

"I like Hickam; that's why I live here. There is plenty of grassy areas and trees. They have been doing all kinds of repairing and fixing on the roads and the base."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MCI Katherine Brooks)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

A-26B flies high through the skies

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force Historical Resource Agency

The A-26B shown in flight here from the Capt. Joseph J. Merhar Jr. photo collection was part of a program by the Army Air Corps, which ordered three prototype aircraft in mid-1941, each designed for a specific role. The A26B had many changes and improvements while in production. With the end of World War II, all A-26 contracts had been cancelled, but the planes continued to serve as the Army Air Force's primary light attack bomber.

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Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/ or www.hookelenews.com.

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535 AS continues to support Operation Tomodachi

Story and photo by A1C Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Capt. Andy Stewart, a C-17 pilot with the 535th Airlift Squadron, speaks live to KHNL and KGMB during the 10 p.m. news as a C-17 returning from Japan taxis in behind him on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 24. Stewart spoke about his personal experience in Japan and the 535 AS ongoing support for Operation Tomodachi.

The C-17 Globemaster III taxied down the 15th Wing flightline late in the evening of March 24. Moments later, a tired and jet-lagged crew deplaned and stood on American soil for the first time since they departed on March 10. The crew had just completed one of many humanitarian missions flown by the 535th Airlift Squadron in support of Operation Tomodachi in Japan.

"After the earthquake and tsunami, I was put on standby," said Capt. Andy Stewart, C-17 pilot and deputy chief of current operations with the 535 AS. "I was given about two hours' notice before we actually left for Japan. But I was really eager to go and help. I felt so helpless sitting at home and just watching the disaster unfold on TV."

Stewart flew on the first mission to leave from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 12 and return March 22.

There are approximately 130 Airmen currently deployed in support of Operation Tomodachi from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, including Airmen from the 15th Wing, Pacific Air Forces and the 647th Air Base Group.

Airmen supporting Operation Tomodachi are providing humanitarian relief by delivering supplies such as food, water, blankets and medical supplies. They are also conducting search and rescue/recovery missions.

"We moved about 70,000 total pounds of cargo," said Capt. Nate Padgett, also a C-17 pilot with the 535 AS.

Padgett and his crew were taking part in Cope Tiger, a multi-national exercise in Thailand, when they received orders to fly humanitarian missions in Japan.

"We started out in Cope Tiger and were called in to perform humanitarian relief for Japan about five days into our exercise in Thailand," he said.

The 535 AS continues to provide support and relief to Japan. Being a flexible cargo aircraft, the C-17 is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and cargo.

"I think we've made a big impact with the lift capability that we have on the C-17. Just seeing the devastation and knowing what people are going through, I just knew that once I touched down I was going to make a difference," Padgett said.

HIANG completes Thai exercise

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Cohen Young

Defense Media Activity

Tech Sgt. Kevin Kalani, a crew chief assigned to the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS), Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, prepares to remove the center row of track rollers to enable a safer walk down the middle of a KC-135 assigned to the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron while at Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand on March 21 during Cope Tiger 2011.

KORAT, Thailand – Hawaii Air National Guard successfully completed two-week Cope Tiger Exercise here, which ran from March 14 – 25.

Fourteen maintenance personnel from the 154th Maintenance Group (154th MXS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and four aircrews from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) worked with one aircrew from the 96th ARS to complete 12 sorties and off load more than 540,000 lbs of fuel during the annual exercise.

The exercise provides a quality venue to develop multi-lateral interoperability and coalition procedures in air power missions, including air superiority, close air support, interdiction, electronic warfare, tactical airlift, aerial refueling and airborne command and control.

Although Hawaii is a warm weather location, the maintainers still had weather challenges to contend with.

"The weather here in Thailand is a little warmer and more humid compared to our weather in Hawaii, so we had to deal with the auxiliary power unit sometimes shutting down due to overheating," said Senior Master Sgt. Edwin Kalilikane, a member of the 154th MXS Group, HIANG. "The weather affected the navigation equipment as well, but we dealt with any problems that arose and we made it work and had a great exercise."

The 203rd ARS had the opportunity to work with Singaporean and Thai Air Force personnel in addition to members of the 44th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan and U.S. Marines from the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

"We've had good relations with the Thai and Singaporean pilots, as well as the U.S. aircrew that are here and it's been great for all of us," said Capt. Myles Kimura, a 203rd ARS pilot and a native of Pearl City, Hawaii.

This particular exercise enabled more interaction between the 203rd and their foreign counterparts because of the details involved.

"The foreign relations part of this exercise is really big for our squadron because we do travel a lot and do participate in many big exercises like this one, but here we work even closer and have even more interaction with our foreign counterparts, which makes it great for us," Kimura added. Coalition forces are strengthened with exercises like this one, and Guard members acknowledge they have benefited from it.

"Getting to work with other countries like this is great because that is what coalition forces do every day," said Tech Sgt. Albert Fernandez, 203rd ARS boom operator. "We get so used to working with our own U.S. crews and don't even need to speak, but here we can practice with other countries so that in a real world scenario like Japan, we can work together effectively and easily," Fernandez explained.

Cope Tiger is a multilateral joint exercise involving the United States, Thailand and Singapore and ran from March 14 – 25.

USS O'Kane hosts international marine debris leaders, researchers

Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

Lt.j.g. Dan Deutsch, the ordnance officer aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77), leads a small tour group on the bridge of the ship. O'Kane hosted a group of international marine debris researchers, natural resource managers and industry representatives as part of the 5th International Marine Debris Conference, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environmental Program.

The Pearl Harbor-based destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) hosted 17 U.S. and foreign visitors on a tour March 23 that focused on the ship's environmental stewardship programs.

The group of international marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, industry reps and the non-governmental community were in Hawaii for the 5th International Marine Debris Conference, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The ship tour was among the field trips offered to attendees of the conference, which was held in Hawaii from March 22 through 25.

Cmdr. Derek Trinque, O'Kane commanding officer, noted the importance for the U. S. Navy to participate in the ongoing discussion of marine debris.

"The ocean is our operating environment, and debris can pose a challenge to our shipboard propulsion and water purification requirements," he said. "The Navy has sought to minimize our waste discharge, and thus avoid adding to the existing debris problem. This conference gains the Navy exposure to the best practices from industry and the academic and research communities, which perhaps can complement our ongoing efforts," he said.

Tour participant Neal Parry of NOAA Marine Debris Division marveled at the busy operations aboard O'Kane. While watching Sailors pass through the mess deck and realizing the enormous task of feeding a 300-person crew, Parry remarked, "I am impressed at how the ship can logistically handle the needs of the crew while still managing the ship responsibly."

The guests toured the major areas of the ship, including a stop at the ship's waste processing facilities to see how the ship processes its wastes. Plastic waste processors compress and store plastic trash, allowing for zero discharge of plastics at sea. Pulpers and shredders ensure all other solid waste discharges are made with minimal environmental impact while at sea.

The international visitors traveled from India, Sweden, Vietnam, France, Israel, United Kingdom, Japan and Nigeria. Among the visitors was retired Rear Adm. K. R. Srinivasan, who served in the Indian navy and aboard many ships during his career. The retired admiral now serves as vice president of the Indian Maritime Foundation's Chennai Branch in India. Like Parry, Srinivasan appreciated the tour and speaking with Sailors about the Navy and life aboard the destroyer.

In addition to hosting the tour, Trinque participated in a conference panel discussion titled, "At-sea detection of marine debris: Capturing local ecological knowledge." During his career, Trinque said he saw a wide variety of marine debris, mostly plastic trash, especially in enclosed waterspace like the Arabian Gulf where the significant amount of waste and debris can clog strainers, entangle propellers, and threaten marine life.

"I'm proud of the leadership role the Navy has played in the effort to minimize our impact on the maritime environment, and am glad to have had the opportunity to participate in this conference," Trinque said.

The International Marine Debris Conference, held every few years in Hawaii, highlights research advances and allows sharing of strategies and best practices to assess, reduce, and prevent the impacts of marine debris.

15th Wing hosts Air Force Academy cadets

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy read the historical plaques on display in Atterbury Circle at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on March 21. The 15th Wing hosted the cadets from the "Fightin' Fourth" squadron at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. during their week-long visit to the base.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Rear Adm. James Caldwell, commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presents the Navy Unit Commendation to Cmdr. Gary Pinkerton, commanding officer; Lt.Cmdr. Steve Garza, executive officer; Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Tyrone Oien, chief of the boat; and the crew of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) for exceptionally meritorious service from April 2010 to October 2010 while conducting operations as a ship of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

(Above) High-voltage electricians from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii reconfigure electrical circuitry and install new, accurate primary metering devices for the Radford and Halsey Terrace housing areas near Pearl Harbor. The conservation initiative is by direction of the Secretary of the Navy to reduce and conserve electricity.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

(Left) A Sailor assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam secures a line used by the amphibious transport dock ship USS Cleveland (LPD 7) as the ship arrives in Hawaii on March 28 for a scheduled port visit. Cleveland is the flagship for Pacific Partnership 2011, which will visit five island nations this summer: Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Federated States of Micronesia. Pacific Partnership 2011 is a humanitarian assistance initiative which promotes cooperation throughout the Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

The amphibious transport dock ship USS Cleveland (LPD 7) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 21 for a scheduled port visit. Cleveland is the flagship for Pacific Partnership 2011.

U.S. Navy photo by Bob Krekorian

Brooke Toner, widow of Lt. j.g. Francis L. Toner IV, stands at a memorial plaque after the dedication of the Toner Memorial Bridge to her late husband at Naval Station Newport, Newport, R.I. The bridge connects Coasters Harbor Island with Coddington Point at Naval Station Newport. Toner, from Narragansett, R.I., was killed March 27, 2009 by small arms fire from an Afghan National Army soldier while he was conducting physical training. He was assigned as the garrison engineer for the Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command North. Toner was assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii prior to being deployed.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Cmdr. Steve Mack, commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776), and Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) John Perryman, chief of the boat, accept the 2010 Submarine Squadron 1 Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") award from Capt. Stanley Robertson, commodore of CSS-1, at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on March 25. The Battle "E" is an award of merit presented to the most proficient ship in each squadron and recognizes sustained superior technical performance and continual combat readiness throughout the year.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, signs the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation during a ceremony at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warfighter and Family Services office on March 28. The proclamation signing officially marked April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Month of the Military Child for Navy Region Hawaii.

Service members celebrate Women's History Month

Story and photo by MCSN Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det Hawaii

An all female color guard presents the colors during the annual Women's History Month luncheon March 21 at the Hickam Officers' Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The luncheon was held to celebrate the history of women and their accomplishments as well as inspire women to keep progressing toward achievement.

Service members attended the annual Women's History Month luncheon March 21 at the Hickam Officers' Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The luncheon was held to celebrate the history of women and their accomplishments.

"We do it to celebrate where we've come from, where we are presently and where we're going," said Air Force Lt. Col. Marlene Kerchenski, the chief nurse of the 15th Medical Group, Air Force Medical Services.

The luncheon was also held to inspire women to keep progressing toward achievement.

"Today, we sit here gaining strength and unity through one thing that unites us all: our history," said Air Force Capt. Melissa Horton, the master of ceremonies for the event.

The event's guest speakers both remarked upon the struggles of women in the past as well as providing a better and more equal path for posterity.

"We need to fight for those who come behind us," said Sharon Ferguson-Quick, the executive director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW). "I come to the commission with the belief that it has an important role to play in reaching a vision shared by many in our community of seeing women and girls in our state reach their full potential and seeing barriers that impede that vision removed."

Another guest speaker at the luncheon, Annabel Chotzen, discussed the importance of having goals and attaining those goals through effort and determination.

"To be alive is to have a dream," Chotzen said.

Chotzen told a story about her father, Walter, who had a dream and eventually achieved his dream of overcoming adversity and coming to America from Germany.

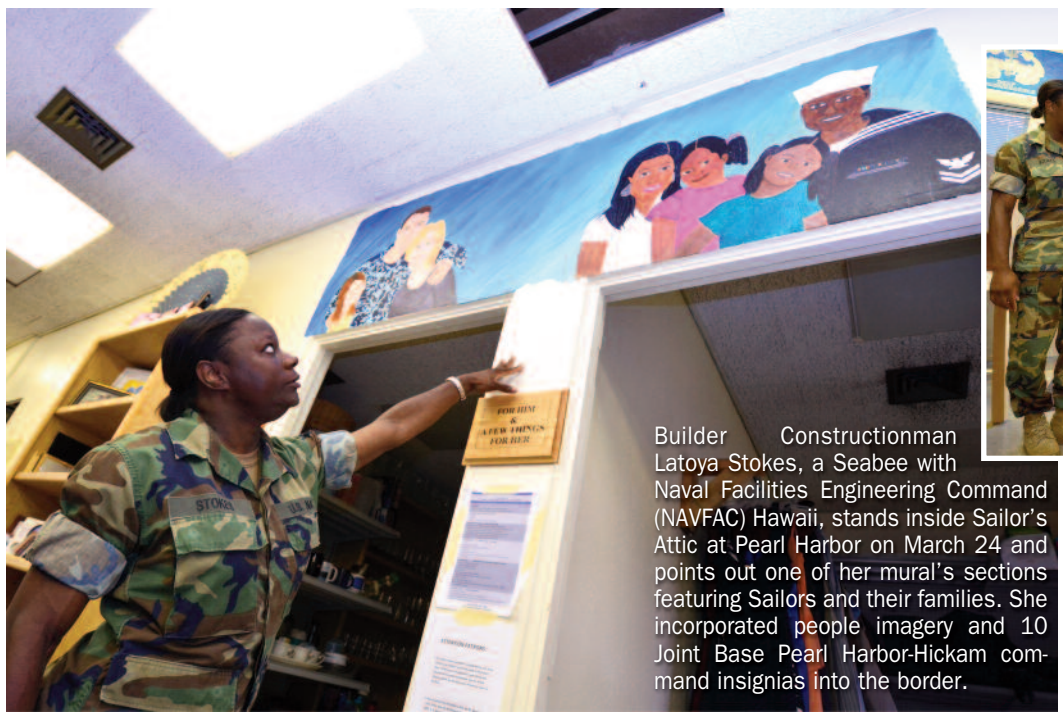
"When I think about making our dreams come true, adversity and reaching our dreams, I think of Walter," said Chotzen. "If it wasn't for Walter escaping and coming to America, I would not be here today."

Toward the end of the event, the two guest speakers as well as several other women were honored and given lei and gifts as thanks for speaking at the event and for being influential and inspiring women in the community.

Seabee's artistic skills are on display at Sailor's Attic, Pearl Harbor

Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii



Builder Constructionman Latoya Stokes, a Seabee with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, stands inside Sailor's Attic at Pearl Harbor on March 24 and points out one of her mural's sections featuring Sailors and their families. She incorporated people imagery and 10 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam command insignias into the border.

U.S. Navy photos by Thomas Obungen

(Above) While visiting Sailor's Attic at Pearl Harbor on March 24, Builder Constructionman Latoya Stokes, a Seabee with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, describes how she used an overhead projector to position an image of the Sailor's Creed and anchor on the wall before she painted the mural at Sailor's Attic.

Since September 2010, Builder Constructionman Latoya Stokes has been putting her artistic talents to work, sketching and painting murals and insignias of commands stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on the walls of Sailor's Attic.

"BUCN Stokes did a wonderful job creating a welcoming environment with her artwork," said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief Gregg Weber. "My vision for Sailor's Attic, as was Master Chief Earl Gray's, is to provide an inviting place for enlisted Sailors and their families E5 and below to visit and collect items they may need to improve their quality of life."

Sailor's Attic is a no-cost store which opened on Oct. 15, 2010 in the same building as the Navy Marine Relief Society near Makalapa Gate. Inspired by its Air Force counterpart on Hickam, Airman's Attic, it is the first of its kind in the Navy. The shop offers clothing, electronics and other household goods to enlisted personnel and families in need.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Self-Help Seabees were called in to help outfit the store with racks and shelves for donated items while Stokes was asked to design a mural.

"I work in the central tool room and sign engraving shop where I do a lot of sketching," said Stokes, "I had just finished sketching rate symbols when I was asked to complete a painting for the Sailor's Attic at the request of the previous Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief Earl Gray."

Her original idea for the mural consisted of a ship and Sailors saluting, but it evolved into a simple design with an anchor and the Sailor's Creed.

In November, she was once again called in to create a border mural around the store, consisting of people and 10 detailed insignias of commands located at JBPHH. Stokes worked a few hours a day on various sections of the mural in addition to her normal duties at the engraving shop, completing her last piece of art work March 17.

"I love art," said Stokes, a Milwaukee native. "And sketching is my favorite art form because I like how realistic I can make portraits look. I really enjoy drawing people, which is where I started when I was nine years old and from there I began playing with colors and painting other subjects."

In addition to working on her art in her free time, she enjoys writing screenplays, short stories and poems and is hoping to publish her first poetry book in the near future.

Sailor's Attic operates 100 percent on volunteer support for staffing and donations. It is open to all branches of the military, E5 and below, and is 100 percent free to the recipients. According to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sailor's Attic Facebook page, the best time to make donations is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. To make sure someone is available to receive your donations, call 808-590-8380, or email jbphhomb@yahoo.com to schedule a drop-off.

Sailor's Attic is self-sustaining and encourages participants to continue their partnership with the attic by someday volunteering. Donations that are accepted include gently used products and new items - clothing, small kitchen appliances, baby items, household items, knick knacks, sporting goods, etc.

Sen. Inouye visits USS Hawaii

Continued from A-1

starting in the torpedo room where Inouye observed the latest submarine weapons operations. Next was the control room where sonar and visual observation techniques were explained.

After the tour, a question and answer session was held on the submarine pier where Inouye talked with the crew about current events and commended them for what they are doing.

"Your presence here in the Pacific, an area of major concern for all of us, is very important. I am extremely pleased and, in a way, relieved that you are all here," Inouye said. "I want to congratulate all of you, so on behalf of the United States Senate, we thank you very much."

Inouye, the most senior member of the U.S. Senate and president pro-tempore, is known for his distinguished record as a legislative leader. He is the most senior member of the U.S. Senate and the second longest serving senator in history. He was sworn in as president pro-tempore of the U.S. Senate on June 28, 2010 and is now third in line to the presidency after the vice-president and the speaker of the house.

He is also a World War II combat veteran with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which earned the nation's highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor.

Measuring 377 feet long and weighing 7,800 tons when submerged, Hawaii is one of the Navy's newest and most technologically sophisticated submarines.

The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and strike group operations.

Fed Fire leads response to CH-53 helo tragedy

Continued from A-1

included units from Honolulu Fire Department, City and County EMS, U.S. Coast Guard and Army.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One will assist in the salvage and recovery of the Kaneohe-based Marine Corps CH-53D helicopter. MDSU-1 is currently developing a salvage plan to provide a safe and expeditious response, with consideration for protecting the environment.

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii has released an advisory asking that if any debris from the CH-53D helicopter is found, please contact MCBH military police at 257-2123 to arrange delivery or pick up of found items. "These items are crucial for the aviation mishap investigation," according to the advisory.

The incident is under investigation.

If anyone has information about or witnessed the emergency landing, please call MCB Hawaii Public Affairs at 257-8832/8840.

School boundary study maps

Information regarding school boundary changes was released by the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) on March 21. The changes will go into effect for military families moving into the area and registering for the 2011-2012 school year.

Under the new DOE guidelines, children who are now enrolled in schools in the affected areas will be able to remain at their current schools if their parents choose.

To view maps which depict the new school boundary changes, visit http://165.248.6.166/data/complexarea.asp?key_complexarea=4&schoolcode .

A complete story regarding the school boundary changes and a chart showing the school changes was published in the March 25 issue of Ho`okele, page A1.

HO'OKELE Online
PEARL HARBOR · HICKAM NEWS
http://www.hookelenews.com or https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

Navy Region Hawaii celebrates 24th Women's History Month

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer Melanie Kinchen, administrative officer for SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team one, offers opening remarks during the Women's History Month celebration March 30 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The theme for this year's Women's History Month is "Our History is Our Strength."

Sailors, Airmen and civilians assigned to various commands on Oahu celebrated the 24th annual observance of Women's History Month at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on March 30.

The theme for this year's Women's History Month, "Our History is Our Strength," pays tribute to women's tenacity, courage and creativity over the centuries.

The event began with a video from Colleen Hanabusa, U.S. representative for Hawaii's 1st Congressional District, about the contributions that women have made throughout history.

Guest speakers for the event included Air Force Col. Sarah Garcia, commander, 6th Field Investigations Region at JBPHH, and Chief Warrant Officer Melanie Kinchen, administrative officer for SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One.

"We are here today to observe the things that women have achieved throughout history and the things that we continue to do while moving forward into the future," said Garcia.

"Our history truly is our strength. Right now, we are collectively writing our own history and are making our marks with the evolving goals that women have achieved in the military."

During the ceremony, Kinchen talked about the role that women have in today's military.

"Today, women serve as administrators, managers, doctors, technicians, pilots, mechanics and engineers. These are jobs that, once upon a time, women were banned from serving in such capacity," Kinchen said. "We honor all women for their military and civil service, and for their strength and willingness to sacrifice everything for the freedom shared by all Americans."

Senior Chief Electrician's Mate Sidney Coverson, equal opportunity advisor for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, noted the importance of celebrating Women's History Month.

"It is important that we take the time to honor them for their achievements and everything that they've accomplished throughout history," said Coverson.

This year marks the 33rd observance of women's history in the United States. It began as "Women's History Week" in 1978 and later changed to "Women's History Month" in 1987. National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

April 7 – Navy veterans Golden Age Games

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.